

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of cutting a piece off
2 an elongated web and transporting the cut-off piece transversely
3 from the web using an apparatus comprising:

4 a gripper closable on the web and displaceable
5 longitudinally of the web along a longitudinal path between an
6 advanced position close to a stationary supply of the web and a
7 retracted position spaced longitudinally from the supply;

8 upper and lower downstream clamp parts extending
9 transversely across and vertically flanking the path; and

10 upper and lower longitudinally generally nondisplaceable
11 upstream clamp parts extending transversely across and vertically
12 flanking the path between the downstream clamp parts and the
13 supply;

14 the method comprising the steps of sequentially;

15 a) with the upper clamp parts spaced vertically from the
16 lower clamp parts, displacing the gripper upstream in a
17 longitudinal direction toward the supply between the clamp parts,
18 closing the gripper on the web, and pulling the web downstream
19 along the path between the clamp parts so that a length of the web
20 extends downstream along the path from the supply between the clamp
21 parts, and closing the upstream clamp parts on the web to clamp it;

22 b) transversely through cutting the web between the
23 supply and the upstream clamp parts to create a separate downstream
24 piece held between the gripper and the upstream clamp parts;

25 c) displacing the gripper while still closed on the piece
26 back ~~downstream~~ upstream such that the piece forms a dependent loop
27 between the gripper and the upstream clamp parts until the gripper
28 is immediately downstream of the downstream clamp parts and
29 displacing the lower downstream clamp part simultaneously upward
30 and upstream toward the upper downstream clamp part to clamp the
31 web between the upper and lower downstream clamp parts when the
32 grripper is immediately downstream of the downstream clamp parts;
33 d) releasing the web from the gripper; and
34 e) transporting the piece as a dependent loop
35 horizontally transversely of the direction with the clamp parts
36 without significantly longitudinally displacing the clamp parts.

1 2. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 longitudinal direction is horizontal.

1 3. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein in
2 step the lower downstream clamp part is displaced in step c)
3 between an upper position pressing the web against the upper
4 downstream clamp part and a lower position spaced upstream and
5 below the upper downstream clamp part.

1 4. (original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein the
2 lower downstream clamp part moves in a straight line between its
3 upper and lower positions.

1 5. (original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein the
2 lower clamp part moves in step c) in an arc between its upper and
3 lower positions.

1 6. (original) The method defined in claim 1, further
2 comprising
3 supporting the web on a flat surface between the supply
4 and the upstream clamp part.

1 7. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 upper clamp parts include respective transversely displaceable
3 elements, the piece being transported horizontally transversely of
4 the direction by transverse shifting of the transversely
5 displaceable elements relative to the respective lower clamp parts.

1 8. (original) The method defined in claim 7 wherein the
2 upper clamp parts are vertically substantially fixed.

1 9. (original) The method defined in claim 8 wherein
2 during step c) the piece slides on the lower clamp parts.

1 10. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein,
2 in step a) during displacement of the gripper upstream of the
3 downstream clamp parts, the upper clamp parts are spaced
4 sufficiently above the lower clamp parts that the gripper can pass
5 between them.

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